

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105242

15

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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SUBJECT: CIVAIR - FAA SECURITY BULLETIN ASE-74-15

1. THE FOLLOWING FAA SECURITY BULLETIN IS PROVIDED FOR
YOUR INFORMATION. IT MAY, AT YOUR DISCRETION, BE PASSED
TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. THE INFORMATION INCLUDED HAS BEEN
MADE AVAILABLE TO US AIR CARRIERS BY FAA.

QUOTE SECURITY BULLETIN ASE-74-15

SUBJECT: DISGUISED WEAPON - FLARE GUNS

IN DECEMBER 1973 A PUSHBUTTON PEN-TYPE FLARE GUN DEVICE
WAS CONFISCATED FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED PASSENGER DURING
PREBOARD SCREENING AT JFK.

IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF THE DEVICE COULD BE CONVERTED

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PAGE 02 STATE 105242

TO FIRE A BULLET, TESTS WERE CONDUCTED. THE TESTS

REVEALED THE FOLLOWING:

A. BY INSERTING A 1/4 IN. DIAMETER, 1 1/2 IN. LONG
THREADED PIPE, THE FLARE GUN SUCCESSFULLY FIRED A .25
CALIBER BULLET A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 FT. WITH
REASONABLE ACCURACY. THE DEVICE WAS NOT DAMAGED AND
THE SPENT SLUG COULD CAUSE A FATAL WOUND. THE PIPE USED
IS THE TYPE FOUND IN A TABLE LAMP WHICH PERMITS THE
ELECTRICAL CORD TO PASS THROUGH THE LAMP BASE TO THE
BULB SOCKET.

B. WHEN THE EXPENDED FLARE CANNISTER IS RELOADED WITH
BEE-BEES AND FIRED, IT WILL INFLICT A SHOTGUN TYPE OF
WOUND WHICH CAN BE FATAL.

C. THE FLARE ITSELF, WHILE NOT NECESSARILY LETHAL,
CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS AND/OR A FIRE WHEN NOT USED FOR ITS
INTENDED PURPOSE.

FAA COMMENT: THE TESTS PROVED THAT THE PEN-TYPE FLARE
GUN CAN EASILY BE CONVERTED TO A DANGEROUS WEAPON.
IN ANOTHER SEPARATE TEST OF THE FLARE GUN A .22 CALIBER
LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE WAS USED IN AN EMPTY FLARE CARTRIDGE
BY PUSHING OUT THE FIRED .22 CAP. THE DEVICE WAS
FIRED BY PULLING THE BUTTON BACK TO THE LAST NOTCH AND
RELEASING IT. THE BUTTON IS ATTACHED TO A SLIDING BOLT
WITH A FIRING PIN WHICH STRIKES THE CARTRIDGE CASE
DISCHARGING IT IN THE SAME MANNER AS IN A RIFLE. A
.22 CALIBER CARTRIDGE FIRED IN THIS MANNER TENDS TO
DISSIPATE ITS PENETRATING POWER. WITHOUT A BARREL, THE
BULLET TUMBLES AND MAY HIT SIDEWAYS FURTHER REDUCING
ITS PENETRATING POWER.

THE THREADED PIPE USED CAN EASILY GO UNNOTICED IN A
PHYSICAL SEARCH OF CARRY-ON BAGGAGE IF IT IS CARRIED
WITH CAMERA OR PORTABLE STEREO/TAPE RECORDER EQUIPMENT.
DEPT. POUCHING DIAGRAM OF SUBJECT FLARE GUN. RUSH

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